

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05675 111335Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07  
/047 W

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R 111250Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2675  
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5675

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS PFOR US BR  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON STATUS OF US-BRAZIL RELATIONS

REF: (A) BRASILIA 5630 (B) STATE 144678

1. SUMMARY: DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON AN ILLICIT PAYMENTS AGREEMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT ON THE STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF US-BRAZIL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 4, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF LEGAL ADVISER HANDELL'S VISIT (REFTEL A) TO EXPOUND ON HIS VIEWS OF THE CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. SILVEIRA EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE OVER THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONTAINED IN THE SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT LETTER (REFTEL B) HE REPEATED THE PUBLIC GOB POSITON THAT THE RECENT PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE TRANSITORY AND WOULD NOT UNDERMINE THE CLOSE HISTORICAL TIES AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES KEPT THE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN. AS IF TO PROVE HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID, SILVEIRA WENT ON TO REMINISCE ABOUT THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS HE HAD RETAINED OF THE US AND ITS PEOPLE FROM HIS FIRST VISIT IN 1937 AS A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD STUDENT. FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT AND ARE LASTING, HE SAID.

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3. SILVEIRA CLAIMED THAT THE IMAGE OF THE US AND BRAZIL AS OCCASIONALLY CLASHING WITH EACH OTHER RESULTED FROM THE EFFORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO BECOME MORE "EFFICIENT", ALTHOUGH BRAZIL, OF COURSE, LAGGED FAR BEHIND THE US. THE VOLUME OF US-BRAZIL TRANSACTIONS WAS NOW SO LARGE, HE STATED, THAT SOME CLASHES WERE NATURAL AND INEVITABLE, BUT TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. REITERATING HIS FAMILIAR COMMENT THAT

BRAZIL COULD NOT BE MADE A DEVELOPED COUNTRY "BY DECREE", HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE US AND BRAZIL WERE "MORE ALIKE THAN WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT." HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

4. COMMENT. SILVEIRA, IN THIS FIRST BILATERAL CONSULTATION SINCE THE WRITTEN REAFFIRMATION OF THE MOU, WAS UNUSUALLY FORTHCOMING AND RECEPTIVE, AND MAY HAVE BEEN MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO BE POSITIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE MOU.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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